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MEMORANDUM ON INSECT CONDITIONS IN

BELL'S CANYON AND THE LEMMON CANYON AREA

TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST, CALIFORNIA.

With the aid of Ranger Land of the Tahoe National Forest, an examination was made during the period August 4-7, 1930, of the Lemmon Canyon area in the vicinity of Sierraville and Loyalton, and of Bell's Canyon, which lies to the north of the latter town. A heavy insect infestation had been reported by Regional Officer T.D. Woodbury and others in these areas.

The Lemmon Canyon area constitutes a part of what is known as the Sierra Valley Working Circle, while Bell's Canyon is a separate unit. The former area includes a great deal of cutover land, although much of what was classed on a Forest Service map as "Cutover by Trespass" is practically uncut. In general, the areas involved are as follows: T 20 N, R 15 E, Secs. 2,3,4,5,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15, 16,19,20,21,24,27,28,29,30,32,33,34; T 20 N, R 14 E, Sec. 25; T 19 N, R 14 E, Secs. 1,2,3,10,11; and a few other smaller areas.

South of the Sierraville-Truckee telephone line and road through Lemmon Canyon there is a very light infestation, and the canyon seems to be the dividing line between insect activity on the north and relative inactivity on the south. A four-mile road strip through the area to the south of the canyon showed an average infestation of but twenty trees per section.

A two-mile traverse was runnthrough average infestation to the north of the road; on the basis of the information collected, an average infestation for this area would be about 90 trees per section for 1929, and the present 1930 attack was calculated as about 110 trees per section. Dendroctonus jeffreyi and Dendroctonus brevicomis are the insects concerned. The infestation throughout this area, however, is not uniform. In the better sites along the canyon the traverse indicated an infestation of only 15 trees per section. The maximum infestation indicated by the traverse was over 200 trees per section. The average volume of the trees noted in the traverse survey was about 500 ft. b.m. The heavier infestation occurs on the upper slopes of the ridge on the north side of the canyon and extends down into the "Cutover by Trespass" areas in Antelope Valley. The stand on the sites where this heavy infestation occurs is scattered, but the intensity of infestation is great enough to give the impression that a relatively small part of the stand is not succumbing to insect attacks.

In other smaller uncut areas throughout the eastern portion of the working circle similar conditions exist, particularly in the scattered stands west of the Smithneck Creek Road. In the vicinity of Old Dairy and Henness Pass Road, to the south of Sardine Peak Lookout, the fir stands that have been left by lumbering operations are suffering from a heavy infestation of Scolytus ventralis.

In Section 30 of T 21 N, R 16 E, a small isolated group of second-growth yellow pine was found which was attacked and killed in 1929 by a combination of Ips emarginatus, Dendroctonus brevicomis and Ips sp. No 1930 attacks were seen in the vicinity.

In Bell's Canyon, which is a secluded canyon (T 21 N, R 16 E, parts of Secs. 25,26,27,34,35,36) entirely isolated on the north, east and west and connected by a few scattered trees with the main body of timber to the south, approximately 40 per cent of the stand has been killed, since an ocular estimate of 10 million feet b.m. in the area was made five years ago. The 1929 infestation by Dendroctonus brevicomis, D. jeffreyi and Melanophila sp. was estimated at about 210 trees per timbered section from data collected from a road strip.

K. A. SALMAN, Agent,
Bureau of Entomology.

September 5, 1930

SIERRAVILLE DIVISION
OF
SIERRAVILLE – TRUCKEE
DISTRICT

TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST

K.M. APRIL 20, 1914.

R.13 E. R.14E. R.15E. R.16E. R.17E.

T.21N. T.20N. T.19N. T.18N. T.22N.

County Boundary Line

Plumas Co. Sierra Co. Plumas Co. Lassen Co. Sierra Co.

Plumas National Forest

Haskell Peak 8092

Dead man's Peak 7560

Bald Mt. 7320

English Mt. 7980

French Mt. 7510

Black Mt. 7960

Webber Peak 8060

Mt. Lola 9167

Crystal Peak

Granite Peak

Bug Peak

Bells Canyon

Sierra Valley

Long Valley

Beckwourth

Loyalton

Sierraville

Vinton

Randolph

Webber Lake

Independence Lake

Frenchman Lake

Meadow Lake

Fordyce Lake

Lake of the Woods

Sierra Nevada

Truckee River

Little Truckee

Lincoln Creek

Berry Creek

Haskell Creek

Dead man's Creek

North Fork Smith River

Middle Fork Feather River

Sierra Co. Nevada Co.

Legend

Unmerchantable, Barren

Calpine uncut Timber

Uncut Timber

Cutover lands

Cutover-Trespass